

From: Mark S. Irle
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 3:28pm
Subject: Comment on the Microsoft-DOJ Settlement

Judge Kollar-Kotelly:

The Microsoft-DOJ settlement echoes the punchline "Stop, or I'll say stop again!" in the old joke about an unarmed British Bobbie attempting an arrest of a fleeing thief.

John Ashcroft's toothless capitulation to Microsoft in this case reminds me of Neville Chamberlin waving his Munich Pact in the wind. While Bill Gates publicly managed to hold his post announcement glee down to his trademark arrogant smirk, privately this appeasement must have him laughing at our "Justice" harder than Hitler did at the Brits and French.

Bill Gates and Microsoft are notorious for never signing any contract, entering into any agreement, partnership, or settlement, or seeing any court order he felt obligated to honor (remember, this case started when Microsoft refused to obey its earlier "settlement" with the Justice Department). Ashcroft has given new meaning to the counter-cliche "snatching defeat from the jaws of victory," and the losers are us. He sold us out to a criminal organization, freeing them to turn the screws on us, and from here forth we will pay, and pay, and pay.

This settlement is riddled with more holes than the security of a Microsoft Operating System. Nothing in it will stop us from having to pay the "Microsoft Tax", forcing us to buy Microsoft's overpriced, ever expanding operating systems bloated with his bundled software along with other Microsoft products when purchasing a computer even if we don't want them, have no intention of using them, and with no recourse for returning them.

Nothing in this settlement will stop Microsoft from demanding that we keep giving them more and more of our personal information to even activate their operating systems, using that information to track and profile us on the internet while selling our information to any cohort willing to pay his price.

Nothing in this settlement will stop Microsoft or their minions from storing our information on his infamously insecure systems, leaving it unshielded from any thieving crackers, phreaks, and lamers that would steal it.

Nothing in this settlement will stop Microsoft from continuing to co-opt or steal any innovation that suits them and destroying any software developers that might threaten their dream of global information system dominance.

Nothing in this settlement will stop Microsoft's relentless drive to conquer the internet and make the web their own exclusive proprietary marketplace that we will use only how Microsoft allows us to use it, for which they will make us pay dearly.

The possession and control of information is the greatest force in the world today, far more powerful than money, weapons, or energy, and Microsoft will not let some farcical settlement with some trifling government stop their hell bent drive to acquire and command every bit of that power they can capture for their own.

If you accept this agreement, we will be assimilated. Our resistance will be futile.

Mark S. Irle
IT Director
Standard Equity Agency
Suite C-45
5901 Peachtree-Dunwoody Road
Atlanta, GA 30328-7155